

REMARKS

Five new dependent claims have been added for consideration; they are discussed below.

Applicants inform the Examiner that tests are being carried out to demonstrate the criticality of using no more than 0.1% by weight of an alkali metal in the zeolite. A declaration should be submitted upon completion of those tests. If, when the Examiner takes the case up for examination, the declaration is not in the record, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

New claim 15 characterizes the zeolite in the adsorbent structure as "one not poisoned by water present in exhaust gas," a feature based upon the disclosure in the specification at page 22, lines 16 to page 23, line 7. See the last sentence of that paragraph.

New claim 16 specifies that the ratio of (a) to (b) in the adsorbent structure is from 10:90 to 85:15; the range is supported in the specification at page 11, lines 33 to 35.

New claim 17 specifies that the BET value of the zeolite after a heat treatment of 1100°C is at least 30 m²/g and new claim 18 specifies a BET range after such a heat treatment of from 30 to 350

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m^2/g ; support for these values can be found in Table 1 at page 22 of the specification.

New claim 19 is directed to a process for treating exhaust gases comprising passing those exhaust gases through an adsorbent structure of claim 3.

Applicants submit that Eberly, Jr. et al. '488, of record, has no discussion of the criticality of having no more than 0.1 wt.% of alkali in the zeolite. Indeed, the discussion in the reference at column 5, lines 16 to 36, suggests that the alkali amount in the zeolite is lowered to obtain a preferred acid zeolite (less alkaline, more acidic). In contrast, the present invention is based in part on a finding that having in an adsorbent honeycomb structure a zeolite having a controlled alkali metal content will provide a stable absorptive capacity even at high temperatures. There is nothing in Eberly, Jr., et al. '488 suggesting that the stability of the absorption ability of hydrocarbons at elevated temperatures such as 1000°C or more is related to the residual alkali content in the zeolite.

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Favorable treatment of the application is earnestly solicited.

July 26, 2002
Date

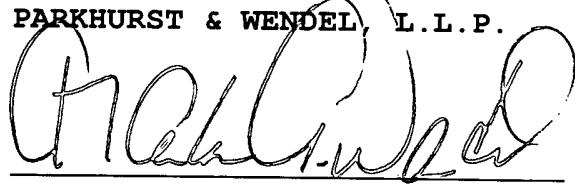
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Respectfully submitted,

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